

## News Briefs

**Information Awareness Training**  
All Columbus AFB network users must complete the 2006 Information Awareness training by March 1. Computer users may access the training by going to <https://columbusweb/> and clicking on the 2006 Information Awareness Training link.

**Military Spouse Scholarships**  
The National Military Family Association is now accepting applications for its Joanne Holbrook Patton Military Spouse Scholarships. Applicants must be a spouse of a servicemember and studying toward professional certification or attending post-secondary or graduate school. Scholarships may be used for tuition, fees, books and school room and board. Applications must be submitted online by midnight on April 15. For more information, visit [www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006](http://www.nmfa.org/scholarships2006).

**Volunteers needed**  
Various base facilities are in need of volunteers. The Air Force Aid Society pays for on-base child-care for Air Force spouses who support certain base programs through volunteering as long as it is coordinated through the Volunteer Resource Program. For more information, call Shirley Pinckney at Ext. 2790.

**Art Exhibit**  
An art exhibit featuring the work of artist Eugene Poole, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, will be held at the base library during the month of February.

## Inside



FEATURE

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332nd ECES fire fighters respond at a moment's notice

COLUMBUS AFB TRAINING TIMELINE											
PHASE II				PHASE III				WING SORTIE BOARD			
Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Track Select	Squadron	Senior Class	Squadron Overall	Graduation	Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
37th (06-13)	6.25 days	0.57 days	Feb. 9	48th (06-04)	2.00 days	2.71 days	Feb. 10	T-37	119	161	10014
41st (06-12)	6.35 days	2.33 days	March 8	50th (06-04)	5.77 days	3.74 days	Feb. 10	T-38C	60	77	4451
								T-1A	58	58	3151
Graduation speaker: Brig. Gen. (select) Mike Moeller, Air Combat Command											

## CMSAF announces retirement

**WASHINGTON** — The 14th chief master sergeant of the Air Force, Gerald R. Murray, announced plans to retire this summer after serving more than 28 years. Chief Murray has served as the chief master sergeant of the Air Force since July 1, 2002.

“I’ve grown up as an Airman,” Chief Murray said. “The Air Force has been a way of life for me for so long, I know it will be bittersweet to say farewell.

“I’ve been tremendously blessed in my personal and professional life and I owe a great deal to those Air Force leaders, mentors and peers who helped me

throughout my career,” he said. “I have found that the Air Force has given back to my family and me 10 times what I have given to it, and I am truly grateful.”

Chief Murray enlisted in October 1977 from his Boiling Springs, N.C., hometown, but he feels the Air Force will always be something he calls home.

“I’m also grateful to have represented the best enlisted force in the world to our senior leaders, to Congress and to the American public,” Chief Murray said. “It’s truly been an honor to serve with such outstanding Airmen and great Americans. While my retirement

will take me away from active duty status, I will always be an Airman.”


Chief Murray’s official retirement date is Oct. 1, but a formal ceremony and appointment for the 15th chief master sergeant of the Air Force is planned for June 30. The Air Force chief of staff selects the individual to fill the position of chief master sergeant of the Air Force. Each major command and direct reporting unit commander and deputy chiefs of staff can nominate potential successors from within their respective commands. *(Courtesy of Air Force Print News)*




**Senior Airman Gregory Butler, an aerospace medical journeyman from Langley AFB, plays a piano and sings songs by the late Ray Charles at the Tops in Blue performance Tuesday at the Rent Auditorium on the Mississippi University for Women campus.**

**Singin’ the Blues**

Senior Airman John Parie



**Maj. Brian Wood**  
41st Flying Training Squadron



The 14th Flying Training Wing would like to congratulate Major Wood on his recent promotion to Mitchell Flight Commander. While working at the 14th FTW, he was selected as the wing staff agency's field grade officer of the year.

**14TH FLYING TRAINING WING DEPLOYED**

As of press time, **53 BLAZE TEAM members are deployed** worldwide.

Remember to support the troops and their families while they are away.



## SILVER WINGS

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**Submission Deadline**

The deadline for submitting copy for next week's SILVER WINGS is noon Monday. Articles may be dropped off at the public affairs office or e-mailed.

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# F-35 simulator demonstrates fighter of tomorrow

**Tech. Sgt. Shane Cuomo**  
Air Force Print News

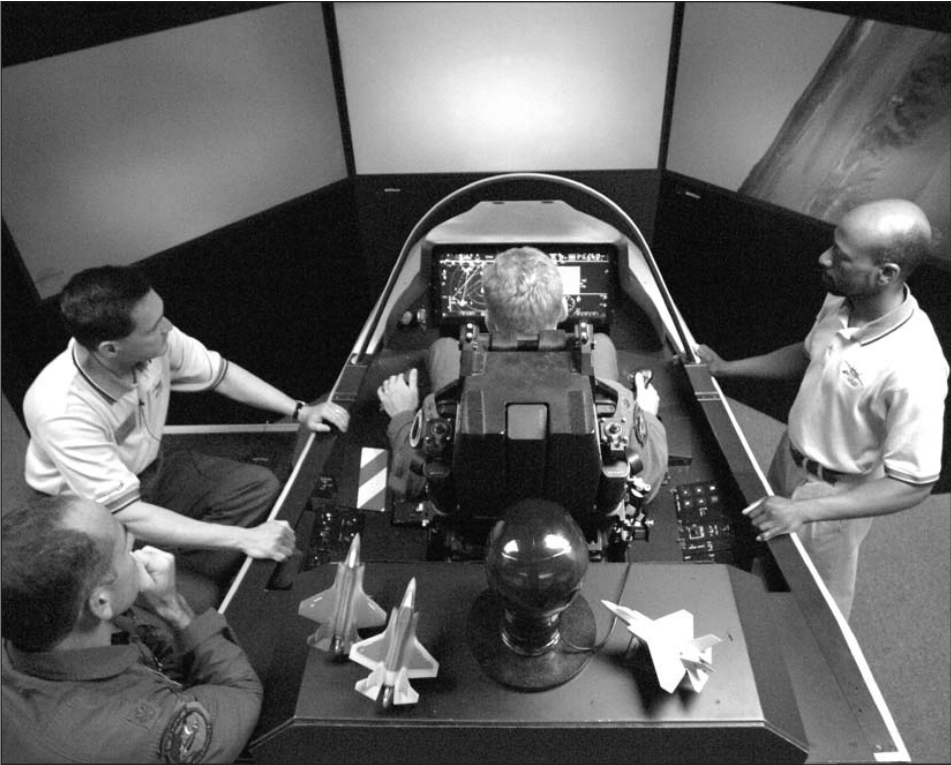
**HICKAM AFB, Hawaii** — While the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter is still in development, Airmen are getting a “sneak peek” at the future of air superiority thanks to a unique simulator.

The Lockheed Martin Corporation’s F-35 Joint Strike Fighter, or JSF, pilot interface simulator is demonstrating the fighter’s capabilities to some pilots here.

“It is very close (to the real thing). The system that we are showing right now has already been tested on different platforms,” said Clyde Bellinger, Joint Strike Fighter pilot interface representative for Lockheed Martin. “It’s going to have fantastic capabilities. What we are showing, as far as the demonstrator is concerned, should be very close to what’s going to be on the actual aircraft.”

The new fighter is expected to deliver unmatched advantages to U.S. and coalition forces.

The Air Force expects to purchase 1,763 F-35s to complement the F-22A Raptor and replace the F-16 Fighting Falcon as an air-to-ground strike aircraft. The fighter has a large internal weapons bay and gun. It also has an improved internal fuel capability, infrared sensors and a laser designator. It also carries large



Tech. Sgt. Shane Cuomo

**Maj. Don Borchelt flies the F-35 Joint Strike Fighter simulator here. The simulator demonstrates the advanced capabilities of the F-35 -- the joint fighter of the 21st century. Major Borchelt is from the Headquarters Pacific Air Force advanced programs office.**

er payloads for greater distances and it is capable of better thrust and 9-G maneuvering.

The F-35’s design includes specific advances and combinations of leading-

edge technologies never before incorporated in a single aircraft, which the simulator demonstrates to the pilots. For example, pilots can select interchangeable windows on the flat panel cockpit display

to provide unprecedented pilot tactical situation awareness.

“The JSF has a much more advanced cockpit display,” said Maj. Don Borchelt, chief of the air-to-air section at Pacific Air Force Headquarters. “It’s got one integrated display that puts all your tactical situational information right there in one place for the pilot to read and digest quickly.”

All these advances are designed for one purpose — improving the pilot’s capabilities.

“The main thing the JSF does is decrease the pilot’s workload. It presents all the information into one easily digestible format that the pilot can know exactly what is going on without having to do a lot of switch actuations,” Major Borchelt said.

And while the joint fighter of tomorrow is still in production, today’s pilots now have a chance to experience the Air Force’s future transformation into a more agile, streamlined and lethal force thanks to an F-35 simulator.

“It is obviously a new airplane,” Major Borchelt said. The major is one of the pilots who flew the simulator here. “It brings together a bunch of things that weren’t available previously. All these things are going to make a fighter more survivable — all of that is good.”

## Outstanding performers awarded

**Master Sgt. John Calhoun**

14th Operations Support Squadron

The 14th Flying Training Wing will recognize its top achievers at the 14th FTW 2005 Annual Awards Banquet Feb. 11 at the Columbus Club.

This year’s theme is “BLAZE’ing a Trail of Excellence.”

The social starts at 5:30 p.m. and dinner begins at 7 p.m. The menu is sliced beef tenderloin or stuffed chicken breast served with roasted potatoes, tossed salad and house dressing, a selection of vegetables, baked dinner rolls, coffee and tea. Cost is \$17.50 for grades E-1 through E-4, \$19.50 for grades E-5 and E-6, and \$21.50 for Senior NCOs, officers and civilians. Club members will receive a \$2 discount.

Since the Columbus Club can only accommodate up to 250 people, it’s important that tickets are purchased early. Each unit has representatives selling tickets.

All award nominees will attend a tour of historic antebellum homes and a host social with special recognition from the 14th FTW commander, Col. Stephen Wilson.

The categories for nominees include: Airman, NCO, Senior NCO, Honor Guardsman, First Sergeant, Flight Commander, Company Grade Officer, Field Grade Officer, Instructor Pilot, Civilian Categories I, II and III, and Volunteer of the year.

The annual Awards Banquet recognizes the overall BLAZE TEAM members who proudly represent servicemembers day in and day out. Attendance at this event helps express out commitment to recognizing and honoring military and civilian nominees, as well as appreciation for what they do for the Columbus community.

For reservation, see any First Sergeant or call 2nd Lt. Earl Alexander at Ext 2695 or Master Sgt. Gilbert Shrieves at Ext. 2236.

## DUI status

**“Don’t Drink and Drive”**

**Last DUI:** Oct. 28, 2005

**Days since last DUI:** 98

**Unit:** 14th Security Forces Squadron



## Oops!

The Silver Wings would like to apologize for a misprint in the Jan. 27 issue.

In Lt. Col. Tom McClain’s commentary, Mississippi State University was said to be rated as one of Kiplinger’s “Top 100 Best Values” in public education. It should have read Mississippi University for Women.

# Columbus AFB lab aces second inspection in a row

**Capt. Daryl White**

14 Medical Support Squadron

The 14th Medical Group laboratory at Columbus AFB has been awarded an accreditation by the Commission on Laboratory Accreditation of the College of American Pathologists.

This recognition was based on the results of December’s on-site inspection.

As a result of the laboratory’s performance they have been awarded the commission’s highest accreditation rating “Accredited with Distinction” in a letter sent to Capt. (Dr.) E. Dale Christensen, laboratory director.

Captain Christensen credited the laboratory staff of only five people for the “top-notch job” they did by receiving no discrepancies out of 675 checklist items. This national recognition simply validates again the “excellence of the laboratory services being provided” to the 14th MDG and the Columbus AFB patient community.

The College of American Pathologists is an advocate for high-quality and cost-effective medical care and the 14th MDG laboratory is one of the more than 6,000 CAP accredited laboratories nationwide. CAP also has nearly 16,000 physician and pathologist members that service the laboratory community throughout the world. It is the world’s largest association composed exclusively of pathologists and is widely the leader in laboratory quality assurance.

During the accreditation process the CAP inspector examined the laboratory’s records and quality control of the lab for the preceding two years. She also examined the entire staff’s education qualifications, the laboratory’s equipment, adequacy of facilities, safety program and records, as well as the overall laboratory management to ensure the highest standard of care to the laboratory’s patients. During an out brief to the 14th MDG’s command Staff, she stated that this was the first



Airman Alyssa Wallace

**The 14th MDG’s lab was commended for the outstanding job they did to obtain the highest inspection results possible for the second time in a row. The inspector said they were the first lab she has seen receive zero discrepancies in the past 10 years.**

laboratory that she has inspected in the last 10 years to receive zero discrepancies during the inspection process.

This inspection is held every two years, and during the off year the lab conducts its own inspection to maintain the highest CAP standards in preparation for the on-site inspections. The work of the lab staff, Tech Sgt. Rondald Walling, Tech. Sgt. Cory Santos, Senior Airman Meredith Carrick, and Airman 1st Class Rebekah Quinn, was commended for the outstanding job they did to obtain the highest inspection results possible for the second time in a row. This is truly a job well

done and not easily attainable with the constant additions to the checklists designed to continually improve laboratory quality.

The laboratory performs urinalysis, cholesterol, diabetes and other tests that assist doctors in diagnosing patients’ ailments. They also refer samples to larger testing facilities such as Keesler AFB, Miss., medical center, Wilford Hall Medical Center, Brook Army Medical Center, the Air Force Reference laboratory at Brooks City Base and others when necessary to obtain any test a patient may need.

## Dorm World 3 event rescheduled

The final event for Dorm World 3 has been rescheduled for today at 5:30 p.m. at the Enlisted Lounge.

There will be a few events requiring team participation — a Battle of the Dorms Competition.

The event will begin with a “survivor” portion of the event. Participants will then run to the Fitness Center for a “fear factor” portion and then to the Bowling Center for an “amazing race” portion. Once the task is completed participants must run back to the Services Complex to be named winner of the Dorm World 3 battle of the dorms final challenge.

Maximum attendance will make tasks easier for each team. Since a minimum of five people per team to is needed to compete, all other attendees help at various locations to make sure the task is done correctly before competitors move on to the next challenge. After the challenge, the first and second place teams will be allowed to determine what they want to do with their prize money. Last year both teams combined their money to have a party for the enlisted dorms residents. For more information, call Master Sgt. Andrea Sanders at Ext. 2391.



# U.S. Air Force Newslink

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# The future of security forces in combat

Col Brad Spacy  
U.S. Air Force Headquarters

**WASHINGTON** — In the early morning hours on Jan. 1, 2005, the first combat patrols of Operation Desert Safeside left the northern perimeter of Balad Air Base, Iraq, and began an aggressive 60-day combat operation to kill or capture insurgents attacking the air base. This was a historic mission for Air Force security forces. It was bold, put Airmen at risk and the stakes were high. We knew the results of Operations Desert Safeside would have far-reaching implications on the future of Air Force security forces as a credible ground combat force.

Operation Desert Safeside was carried out by the men and women of Task Force 1041. Specially built around a squadron of the 820th Security Forces Group, TF 1041 was led by a young security forces lieutenant colonel named Chris Bargery, chosen for his reputation as an innovative combat leader. TF 1041's designated area of operations was one of the most violent areas in the region, roughly 10 kilometers wide and 6 deep, from the Balad perimeter fence to the Tigris River.

Throughout January and February 2005, Colonel Bargery led the men and women of TF 1041 in more than 500 combat missions that included raids, ambushes, and sniper operations aimed at taking back the initiative enjoyed by the enemy for more than two years.

TF 1041 did not disappoint. In just 60 days they captured 17 high value targets, eight major weapons caches, 98 other insurgents and reduced enemy attacks from their area of operations to nearly zero. And although TF 1041 endured numerous firefights, improvised explosive devices and indirect fire attacks, they sustained no injuries.

Operation Desert Safeside was by all accounts an overwhelming success.

However, TF 1041's success on the battlefield had a larger effect than its immediate impact on the areas around Balad AB. TF 1041 also showed the world that Air Force security forces are an exceptionally capable ground combat force. This is a key point as security forces transform from a Cold War industrial security force to a relevant ground combat force for the joint warfight in the 21st Century.

Although security forces have claimed the base defense mission since the 1960s, it has always been considered an Army responsibility. In 1985, this was formalized when the Army became officially responsible for defense "outside the wire" of a fixed base. It was an unwritten understanding that Air Force security forces would stay inside the base perimeter. This looked fine on paper, but faced numerous challenges in application, which endured through the Cold War and into the 1990s.

During Operation Desert Storm, the lines of battle were fairly well-defined with major combat at the "front" and air bases supposedly tucked safely in the rear area. The first widely publicized indications that the enemy was changing tactics was seen during the attack on Khobar Towers, but the full impact of these changes weren't fully exposed until operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom. In combat operations in Afghanistan and Iraq our bases are not always in the rear and the enemy has attacked us from all sides with relative impunity, just like at Balad AB. The world in which we conduct Air Force operations is changing, and we need to adapt.

Early last year, when previous Air Force/Army agreements were dissolved, the Air Force was left with a tough problem; while security forces are eager to fight outside the wire, most are untested in the combat environment

experienced by TF 1041. This situation is exacerbated by the fact that security forces are spread thin conducting security missions and other tasks throughout the theater. This is where Security Forces Transformation comes in.

Security Forces Transformation will help the Air Force deliberately embrace the air base defense mission by addressing requirements in all areas, from doctrine to training and equipping, and even leadership preparation. Security Forces Transformation will also re-tool the organizational structure to ensure we have the number of troops available to take the fight to the enemy outside the wire. However, air base defense is a tough mission, and security forces can't do it alone. Effective air base defense requires an integrated approach.

The Air Force needs to truly embrace the "every Airman is a warrior" culture and enlist the whole force in defending an air base much like Sailors do an aircraft carrier in the Navy. All Airmen must be trained and equipped to man "battle stations," and leaders must be prepared to lead them in the ground fight. Security forces might be the ones outside the wire, but the whole Air Force team will have to ensure the base remains protected from penetrative attacks and insider threats, and be ready to respond when called upon. This is the reality of the world today.

I knew when I designed Operation Desert Safeside that the only way to stop the enemy from attacking our air bases was to go out and kill or capture him and take his weapons. I knew that security forces had the skills and courage to take on this mission and make it a success. The brave men and women of Task Force 1041 proved this to be true in dramatic fashion. Operation Desert Safeside provides a look at the future of Air Force ground combat, and Security Forces Transformation is the key to ensuring we're all ready to protect and defend.

# Thunderbirds in need of seven officers for 2006

Capt. Angela Johnson  
Thunderbird Public Affairs

**NELLIS AFB, Nev.** — The United States Air Force Air Demonstration Squadron will complete a very busy and historic season in 2006. The team will perform more than 70 demonstrations in 27 states. The team will also be making history with the first female demonstration team pilot in the United States. Capt. Nicole Malachowski from Las Vegas, Nev., will be flying in the number three position as the right wing and will help the team to represent the more than 530,000 Airmen throughout the country.

In preparing for the upcoming season, the team is also looking to hire seven new officers for the 2007-2008 seasons. Each January, the team solicits applications for new officers. This year, there are seven positions opening: three demonstration pilots, an operations officer, executive officer, maintenance officer and a public affairs officer. Officers serve two years on the team in their position.

The demonstrations pilots perform aerial demonstration maneuvers to exhibit the capabilities of high performance aircraft and supports air force recruiting and retention programs. Applicants must be qualified for aviation service and have a minimum of 1,000 hours of first pilot and instructor pilot flying time in jet fighter or trainer aircraft and have been qualified in fighter aircraft. They must also have not more than 12 years of active commissioned service on Dec. 1, 2006.

The operations officer is the second in command and runs daily operations and scheduling. This officer must be a major and serves as safety observer and evaluator for air demonstrations, and flies celebrity, media, and orientation flights. To be the operations officer applicants must be qualified for aviation service and have a minimum of 1,000 hours first pilot and instructor pilot flying time in jet fighter or trainer aircraft and have been a qualified in fighter aircraft.

The executive officer supervises executive support, information management, budget and personnel selections as well as manages overall squadron operations. The exec also serves as the squadron commander during the commander's frequent deployments. Applicants for this position must be a pinned on captain by Nov. 1, 2006 and squadron section commander or executive officer experience is desired.

The maintenance officer oversees approximately 90 aircraft maintainers and is responsible for keeping the squadron's fleet of 11 F-16s mission ready. To apply for this position, an officer must be fully qualified in the 21A3 AFSC and a major or major select by Nov. 1, 2006. The public affairs officer oversees the thunderbird publicity programs and specialists to include photography, graphic arts, recruiting and broadcasting. Applicants for this position must be a fully qualified 35P3 and a pinned on captain by Nov. 1, 2006.

Air Force officers interested in applying can contact the team's executive officer at Nellis AFB, Nev., for details on requirements can contact Capt. Todd Randolph at DSN 682-9584 or Tech. Sgt. Rebecca McKlintock at DSN 682-2279.

The team's first performance was June 8, 1953 at Luke

AFB, Ariz. Since then, the Thunderbirds have flown before more than 400 million people at more than 3,800 air demonstrations in all 50 states and 59 foreign countries.

"Our job is to demonstrate the professional qualities the Air Force develops in the people who fly, maintain and support the aircraft," said Maj. Jeremy Sloane, the team's operations officer. "We are a mirror-image of every other front-line fighter unit in the Air Force. Every member of the team is critical to the success of the mission."

"Because of military budget cuts and downsizing, a perception exists that the Air Force is out of the hiring business. Quite the contrary. That's why the Thunderbirds are here. Our red, white and blue jets are a vivid reminder to young people that the Air Force is still hiring," said Maj. Sloane. "We need more than 24,000 new recruits this year alone."

The team is assigned to the 57th Wing at Nellis AFB and made up of eight pilots (six demonstration pilots), four support officers, four civilians and more than 120 enlisted in 28 career fields. Between March and November, the Thunderbirds average nearly 70 demonstrations, keeping them on the road more than 220 days.

"During the demonstration, the pilots fly some of the same maneuvers that every Air Force pilot learns in initial training," said Maj. Sloane. "Safety is paramount and key to planning the demonstration maneuvers."

The Thunderbird diamond formation, flying an average distance between 18 inches and 3 feet apart, represents the skills and training of every U.S. Air Force pilot.

"Because of the aircrafts' proximity to each other, there's little margin for error," explained Capt. Malachowski, right wing. "We have tremendous confidence and trust in each other and our capabilities."

Thunderbird solo pilots' job is to highlight the capabilities and max perform the F-16C Fighting Falcon to the world.

More than 90 aircraft maintainers ensure the Thunderbirds' fleet of 11 F-16s are mission capable and the pilots strap themselves into a safe and reliable aircraft every time. Without their dedication, attention to detail and long hours of preparing for the performance, the demonstration may not be possible, said Maj. Sloane.

"It's an honor for us to represent the Air Force," said Master Sgt. Tim Bollinger, Sortie Support Flight Chief. "It means a lot to all of us representing the quality of the pilots, maintainers, and aviation support people who continue to make the U.S. Air Force the best in the world."

Twenty-two maintainers who show they have the initiative and the drive it takes to keep the team's F-16s mission ready, are assigned directly to an aircraft as a crew chief.

In addition to pilots and maintainers, there are an additional 30 people behind the scenes supporting the Thunderbird mission in operations, communications, administration, supply and public affairs.

Watching a Thunderbird performance provides only a small glimpse into how 530,000 Air Force professionals perform every day.

For more information, please visit the Thunderbird's Web site at [www.airforce.com/thunderbirds](http://www.airforce.com/thunderbirds).

# Everyone can help today's youth strive for excellence

**WRIGHT-PATTERSON AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio** — "I like this year's African American History Month theme, 'Reaching out to youth: a strategy for excellence' because it's targeting the resources of the future — our children."

For me it ties in with the words of Elie Wiesel, a Jew who was deported by the Nazis to the Auschwitz concentration camp with his family in 1944 when he was a teenager. He is currently a professor in humanities at Boston University.

"The opposite of love is not hate, it's indifference. The opposite of art is not ugliness, it's indifference. The opposite of faith is not heresy, it's indifference. And the opposite of life is not death, it's indifference," Mr. Wiesel said.

I don't think people intend to be indifferent. I think it just happens. Their lives' hurried schedules don't lend to reaching out to their own children — let alone somebody else's. How do I know?

Since December 2000, I've been a single

parent. My son is now 19 and recently married. my daughter is 13. After their dad left us in 1999, my life as a stay-at-home, workpart-time-as-a-college-instructor, PTA-president-mom life ended abruptly. I didn't have much time to sit back and take a breath.

My children immediately spiraled, acting out their hurt and fear of not having their dad with them. My 14-year-old son regularly exploded with anger and my 8-year-old daughter cried every day. People at church told us they were praying for us and family members were in different states.

I won't go into the whole teary-eyed story, but the bottom line is that everyone was so busy with their lives that they were indifferent. They didn't mean to be — it just happened.

Some people feel they aren't qualified to mentor someone else. They may not feel smart enough, successful enough, the right race, etc. If you fall into that category,

hear this. My children could not have

cared less about the color of your skin, what kind of car you drove or if you would buy them things. A regular e-mail or phone call just to talk to them or see how they were doing in school, home or sports would have brought a smile to their faces.

Ask yourself a few questions:  
— Am I regularly involved in another child's life outside of my own family? Why not?  
— Do I know of a family that might appreciate making myself available to their child in a safe environment such as school lunch time or homework help?

— Do I have a hang-up if the child's family is of a different race?

— Do I know a child who is interested in the same things my children are interested in, and can I include that child periodically in a scheduled event?

If you don't have a clue on where to start making a difference, contact your local educational outreach office. They can help you to be a Big Brother or Big Sister, a tutor or a job shadowing mentor.

They can also give you other ideas how you can touch the lives of our youth.

As we recognize the upcoming African-American History Month, let's reach out to our children. Who knows, you may touch the life of the next Rosa Parks, Chappie James, Paul Lawrence Dunbar, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., teacher, doctor, military leader, president of the United States or a wonderful stay-at-home-PTA mom. *(Courtesy of Air Force Materiel Command News Service)*

Ask yourself a few questions:  
Am I regularly involved in another child's life outside my own family?



Tech. Sgt. Justin Pyle

**Staff Sgt. Carey Thein, assistant dedicated crew chief of the No. 2 aircraft, cleans the landing gear during a pre-launch inspection at Terre Haute, Ind.**



# 332nd ECES fire fighters respond at moment’s notice

**Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson**  
332nd Air Expeditionary Wing

Members of the 332nd Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron Fire Prevention Flight do more than fight fires when necessary. They are ready to respond at a moment’s notice. But they also do so much more.

“In addition to fire and medical calls we respond to HAZMAT, confined space and high angle rescue calls,” said Chief Master Sgt. Daniel Raymond, 332nd ECES fire chief. The flight also responds to in-flight emergencies and on-and-off base accidents, like car wrecks.

“The Rescue Air Mobility Squad is a very unique mission,” Chief Raymond said. “We have one of only two RAMS teams in the Iraqi area of responsibility.”

The RAMS team members are certified members of the fire protection flight who receive additional combat skills training from the Army.

“The RAMS team is assigned to the 732nd ECES but are detailed to the 332nd ECES Fire Department where they perform daily as part of the Fire Protection Flight protecting Balad AB and Logistical Support Area Anaconda,” Chief Raymond said. “The RAMS team has this unique mission because firefighters have the tools, training and experience to pull vehicles apart while protecting the occupants, extricate victims and provide emergency medical

care prior to their being transported to a medical facility.”

The RAMS team consists of 14 members who are on call 24 hours a day, seven days a week. When needed, the team is either transported by medivac helicopter to the incident scene or convoys out to it carrying 350 pounds of extrication tools in a Stokes basket.

Regardless of the mode of transportation, the fire protection flight is able to respond to calls faster than ever thanks to the newly installed 911 system. The system became fully functional in middle of December 2005.

The “virtual” joint dispatch center is manned at two different locations by both the Army Provost Marshall’s Office and Air Force Fire Department firefighters who are Department of Defense certified Telecommunicators. Having installation- wide 911 capability has cut one and a half to three minutes off of response times.

Though working in the dispatch center can be slow at times, its impact is not overlooked by those who sit there. “It’s not as exciting or as hands-on as firefighting, but I understand the importance of it,” said Airman 1st Class Matthew Clayton, 332nd ECES firefighter. “This is the nerve center of emergency response at Balad.”

But even the most advanced dispatch system can’t compensate for a flight that is prepared to do their job and that is something Chief Raymond doesn’t worry about.



Tech. Sgt. Pamela Anderson

**Airman 1st Class Nathan Shaw and Senior Airman John Armstrong, 14th Civil Engineer Squadron, inventory 350 pounds of extrication tools on a Stokes Basket. Both Airmen are expected to return soon from a deployment with the 332nd ECES Fire Prevention Flight.**

“I was really concerned when I got here,” he said. “We only had two (master sergeants), four (technical sergeants) and a lot of one stripers, but I can’t think of a task or job I’ve asked them to do that they haven’t gotten done.”

Chief Raymond also credits the Army firefighters under his command with making the mission here such a success.

“We have seven Army firefighters

detailed to the wing from the 452nd Ordnance Company,” he said. “We are three groups but we’re purple all the way. The combined mission of these three organizations (332nd and 732nd ECES and 452nd Ordnance Company) is to form a cohesive team and provide the best quality and most effective Fire and Emergency Services response and Fire Prevention effort available to our customers on this installation.”

## AF, Army work as joint team to supply school supplies

**Staff Sgt. Kristina Barrett**  
506th Air Expeditionary Group

**KIRKUK AB, Iraq** — Surrounded by stacks of school supplies, Senior Airman Aaron Smith stands in the middle of a mission that almost didn’t go.

The supplies are donations from groups and individuals in the States and the mission is Operation Provide School Supplies. Without the Airmen of the 506th Air Expeditionary Group, the mission was in jeopardy of failing.

Airman Smith, Chapel assistant deployed from Columbus AFB, Miss., was instrumental in reviving the program. Operation Provide School Supplies originally belonged to the U.S. Army’s 116th Civil Affairs Battalion. When the unit rotated out in August, the duties transferred to the 451st Civil Affairs Battalion, who were too undermanned to support the program completely. It was then the 506th AEG Chapel stepped in to head the program.

“The program is very important because it allows the military to reach out to the people of Kirkuk,” Airman Smith said. “The children in this area have nothing, let alone school supplies and we are doing our part to ensure they are given the basic tools to learn.”

These “basics” are packets of school supplies consisting of pens, pencils, notebooks and whatever other donations the program receives. The packets are assembled by volunteers who have contacted friends and family back home for donations. Once the packets are assembled, they are given to the 451st, who deliver the supplies to 24 schools in the local area.

“At first we had hardly any supplies and the ones we did have had been sitting in a warehouse getting dirty,” Airman Smith said. “People started e-mailing their home stations and we had a flood of supplies.”

In just the past four months, approximately 25-30 volunteers from Air Expeditionary Force rotation 7 and 8 collected more than \$1,000 of supplies and assembled approximately 7,400 packets.

Heading up the program now is Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Man, deployed from Aviano AB, Italy.

“This is such a great thing that we, as Airmen, can do for this country,” she said. “This is unity at its best between the Air Force, Army, friends and family back home and the people of Iraq.”

It is now up to the members of AEF 9 and 10 to pick up the program and make it better.

“The 506th is interested in expanding the program to

include other items, such as toys and personal hygiene items,” said Lt. Col. Dave Carrell, 506th AEG vice commander, deployed from Davis-Monthan Air Force Base, Ariz. “This will go a long way in building the relationship between the United States and the people of Iraq.”

In addition to expanding the program beyond school supplies, the colonel said the 506th will be supporting other agencies as well, such as the Air Force Office of Special Investigations and the Power and Oil Infrastructure Team.

“These organizations go out into the community every day,” he explained. “This is a great opportunity for them to solidify relationships and make contact with the people they need to work with.”

In addition, the colonel added, people back home want to know how they can help the troops and the people of Iraq; they can start by helping the children. “Americans have big hearts and this is their chance to show American generosity,” he said.

So as the stacks of school supplies dwindle with each packet that goes out the door, the Airmen of Kirkuk AB will do their part in helping Iraq and its children with American kindness. *(Editor’s note: Senior Airman Smith returned from his deployment Jan. 20)*

**Champagne Sunday brunch:** The Columbus Club offers breakfast and lunch during its all-you-can-eat brunch from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday. Cost is \$9.95 for members and \$12.95 for nonmembers, \$5 for members ages 6 to 12, \$7 for children of nonmembers; ages 5 and younger eat free.

The menu includes marinated chicken breast, lasagna, baked fish, carved ham, tossed salad with assorted dressings, fruit tray, mashed potatoes and gravy, rice pilaf, rolls, and buffet, green beans almondine, balsamic grilled vegetables, California blend vegetables, omelette and waffle station, crisp bacon, sausage gravy, butter-milk biscuits, assorted homemade desserts and champagne. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

**Super Bowl party:** The club invites all football fans to the Services Complex to watch the Pittsburgh Steelers play the Seattle Seahawks in the Super Bowl at 3:30 p.m. Sunday with door prizes, game day snacks and a chance to win a recliner from No Place Like Home. Two club members will also walk away with a voucher for \$275 in NFL merchandise from [www.nfl.com](http://www.nfl.com). For more information, call Ext. 2490.

**Give Parents a Break:** The youth center and child development center offer this program from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Feb. 11. Parents must receive a voucher from the Family Support Center and register by Wednesday at the respective activities. Call the child development center at Ext. 2479 and the youth center at Ext. 2504 for more information.

**Free family child care certification training:** The family child care office offers free training Feb. 14 to Feb. 17 to anyone interested in operating a family child care service in their base home. Participants must register by 4 p.m. Feb. 13. For more information, call Ext. 3041.

**Home decor workshop:** The arts and crafts center offers a workshop to make a storage tower at 10:30 a.m. or 6 p.m. Feb. 16. Cost is \$40 and includes all supplies. Register by Feb. 13 at the

arts and crafts center. For more information, call Ext. 7836.

**Magic show family fun night:** The Columbus Club offers a family fun night from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. Feb. 16 with a Magic Memories Magic Show from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$7.95 for adult members and \$10.95 for nonmembers. The children’s buffet is \$4.95 for members and \$6.95 for nonmembers for ages 6 to 12 and cost is \$1 for ages 5 and younger.

The adult buffet includes garden green salad, vegetable medley, smothered grilled chicken breast, roasted pork medallions, wild rice, rolls and butter, coffee and tea.

The children’s buffet includes chicken nuggets, french fries, corn dogs, tater tots, macaroni and cheese, fruit gelatin and chocolate and vanilla swirl pudding. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

**One-day Mardi Gras trip:** The information, ticket and travel office offers a one-day trip to New Orleans, La., Feb. 18. Cost is \$65 and includes transportation and shuttle service while in New Orleans. The bus leaves at 5 a.m. and will depart New Orleans at 1 a.m. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

**Cruise seminar:** The information, ticket and travel office is hosting a free cruise seminar during a pay-as-you-go lunch Feb. 15 at the Columbus Club. Participants will learn about cruises, costs, available destinations and more. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

**Lunch buffets:** The Columbus Club offers an all-you-can-eat lunch buffet from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday through Friday. Tuesday’s menu is new and includes meat loaf, Southern fried pork chops, veggies and homemade apple pie. Wednesday’s menu features a southern comfort buffet with fried chicken, smoked brisket and cobbler. Thursday is the backyard barbecue and Friday’s menu is a bonsai buffet with teriyaki chicken, beef vegetable stir fry, fried rice and egg rolls. Cost is \$5.50 per person and includes iced tea or lemonade. For

## Self-service



Pam Wickham

**Kai Lee, 3, pours milk during lunch at the child development center. The child development center and youth center offer a Parents Night Out from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. Feb. 11. Parents must receive a voucher from the family support center and register by Wednesday. Call the child development center at Ext. 2479 and the youth center at Ext. 2504.**

more information, call Ext. 2490.

**Daily Grind open Saturdays:** The fitness center coffee shop, The Daily Grind, will be open from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday. A free espresso will be given after the purchase of nine espressos. For more information, call Ext. 2772.

**Crafts classes:** The arts and crafts center’s upcoming crafts classes feature seasonal projects. Adult classes are at 10:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesdays. Upcoming classes include a valentine door hanging, a heart shaped mosaic patio stone, an Uncle Sam wood door hanging and a “Home is Where the Air Force Sends You” wooden sign.

The youth classes are offered Wednesdays at 11:30 a.m., 2:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Upcoming classes include homemade valentine cards, a patriotic door hanging and a gumball machine. A display of all projects is available in the arts and crafts lobby.

Participants must register at least four days prior to the class date. For more information, call Ext. 7836.

**Quick shot bingo:** The club offers this new program during lunch at the Columbus Club, during the Boss and Buddy Thursday nights in the Landing and from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays at the Enlisted Lounge. Cost is \$1 per card and pays from \$3 to \$1,000 for winning combinations. For more information, call Ext. 2490.

**Memphis Grizzlies honor military families:** Military families may enter a drawing for the opportunity to attend a 2005-2006 Memphis Grizzlies home game by picking up an application at the information, ticket and travel office. The winner will receive passes to a game for up to 10 family members, two parking passes and a \$10 concessions voucher per person.

The chosen servicemember must have been deployed to the

Middle East during the last four years for a period of no less than six months as a member of the U.S. armed forces. Eligible applications will remain in the drawing for every home game so families only need apply one time. The Grizzlies Foundation staff will give winning families at least one week’s notice before the game to coordinate plans to attend. For more information, call Ext. 7861.

**Spring break trip to Orlando:** Register at the information, ticket and travel office for a trip to Orlando, Fla., March 26 to March 30. Cost is \$415 for one person, \$265 each for two people in the one room, \$215 each for three people in the one room and \$190 each for one person in the same room. Cost include transportation, four nights lodging and shuttle service while in Orlando. Discounted Disney tickets are available at the ITT office. For more information, call Ext. 7861.



## Benefits blossom at tax briefing



Airman Alyssa Wallace

**Capt. Deric Prescott, 14th Flying Training Wing legal office, provides members of the Single Parents group with tax benefit information for single parents. The Single Parents group meets on the first Thursday of each month at noon at the Columbus Club's Happy Lounge. For more information, call Lee Chouinard at Ext. 2613 or Senior Airman Tabitha Diaz at Ext. 2522.**

### Base Notes

#### Trash cans

Trash pick-up is on Mondays for Capitol Housing residents and on Thursdays for Magnolia and State Village residents. Residents with trash or recycling receptacles left curb-side later than noon the following day will be ticketed by the housing office.

#### Free soil and mulch

Free top soil and mulch are available

for all on base housing occupants in the agriculture yard located on the gravel road adjacent to the Thrift Store. For more information, please call Ext. 2840.

#### Speed dial saves lives

Columbus AFB Fire & Emergency Services maintains two dedicated E-911 lines to handle emergency responses. Please use 911 from base phones and cell phones. Ensure when calling 911 to state exact location on base. All emergency calls will be will be forwarded to the base Fire & Emergency services E-911 center.

#### Student Spouse Group

Past, present and future student spouses are invited to a Student Spouse Group Walk and Talk at 10 a.m. and 6:30 p.m. Feb. 15 beginning at the bus stop at the entrance of Capitol Village. The group is part of the Columbus Officers' Spouses' Club and provides spouses an opportunity to meet new people and build resources. Children are invited and no reservations are required. For more information or questions, e-mail Allison Adair at allison\_adair@yahoo.com or call her at 434-8714.

#### COSC social

A COSC wine and chocolate tasting social is at 6 p.m. Feb. 21 at the Columbus Club. Members and guests will learn about and sample wines and chocolate from a menu of palette pleasers. Cost is \$13.50 with club members receiving a \$2 discount. New members are welcome. For reservations, e-mail Jennifer Wood woodtjig@cableone.net or call 425-6059 by noon Feb. 16.

#### Garage sales

On-base garage sales are only permitted the first Saturday of every month. Advertisements for sales are limited to yard signs or ads in the base paper only. Signs must be no larger than 2 feet by 2 feet. Displaying signs on utility poles and street signs is prohibited. Advertising yard sales in the local media, excluding the base newspaper, is also prohibited. People may locally advertise individual items for sale, such as automobiles, boats, washers, dryers or refrigerators. Columbus AFB housing areas are located on a federal installation and the civilian public may only enter a military installation on official business, open house functions or social visitations. Yard and carport sales do not fall within these criteria.

### Family Support Center

**(Editor's note:** *All activities are offered at the family support center unless otherwise specified. For more information about any of the activities listed, call Ext. 2790.*)

#### Spouse welcome

A welcome reception for spouses new to Columbus AFB is from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. every Wednesday at the Magnolia Inn Lobby. Spouses will receive gifts and information about the family support center.

#### Free childcare

The Childcare for PCS program offers up to 20 hours of free childcare per child

for active-duty Air Force people arriving at or departing from Columbus AFB. Certificates are available within 60 days of departure or arrival. For more information, call Sharon Nichols at Ext. 2790.

#### Bundles of Joy

A workshop for active-duty military and spouses who are pregnant or have a child four months or younger will begin at 1 p.m. Tuesday. Speakers will provide information about finances, labor and delivery, and infant care. The Air Force Aid Society provides a gift package valued at \$65.

#### Local employment

A workshop about employment opportunities with local businesses, the 14th Services Division and government applications is from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. every Wednesday. Resumes and other job applications will also be discussed.

#### Deployment Briefings

Pre-Deployment Briefings are held daily at 9 a.m. Family members are encouraged to attend. For more information, call Ext. 2974 or Ext. 2790.

### Chapel Schedule

#### Catholic

Sunday:  
9:15 a.m. — Mass  
10:30 a.m. — CCD  
5 p.m. — Confessions  
5:30 p.m. — SUPT Mass  
Tuesday:  
7 p.m. — RCIA

#### Protestant

Sunday:  
9 a.m. — Adult and children's Sunday School  
10:30 a.m. — Contemporary service at the services complex  
10:45 a.m. — Traditional worship service at the chapel sanctuary  
Monday:  
7 p.m. — Bible study fellowship  
Wednesday:  
11:30 a.m. — Lunchtime study  
5 p.m. — Pot luck supper  
6 p.m. — Video study  
A Case for Kids  
Pioneer Clubs  
Thursday:  
10 a.m. — Ladies Bible Study  
For information, call Ext. 2500.

**Daily historic home tours:** The public is invited to drop by or call the Mississippi Welcome Center or Columbus Historic Foundation for schedules of historic homes open for tours. For admission or more information, call (800) 920-3533.

**Community Volunteer Center:** People in search of volunteer opportunities can contact the Community Volunteer Center at 327-0807, or visit the office at 501 Seventh St. North, Suite 5, in the Plaza Building.

**American Indian Artifacts Museum:** This museum

holds Native American artifacts dating back hundreds and thousands of years. Tours are available to individuals or groups by appointment. For more information, call Byron and Alice Weeks at (662) 251-1125.

**Exchange Club:** The Exchange Club of Columbus meets at noon Thursdays at the Columbus Country Club. The organization is a community service group dedicated to programs and projects that aid in the prevention of child abuse. For more information, e-mail exchange clubofcolubusms@yahoo.com.

**Double Exposure Exhibit:** A free exhibit of award-

winning photography from Alabama will be presented by the Arts and Humanities Council of Tuscaloosa County in the Bama Theatre's Junior League Gallery through Feb. 24 in Tuscaloosa, Ala. For more information, call (205) 758-5195.

**Crappie USA Qualifier Fishing Tournament:** This tournament will be held at the Columbus Marina on Feb. 25. For more information, call the Columbus Visitor's Bureau at (662) 329-1191.

**For more event listings, visit [www.columbusms.org](http://www.columbusms.org), or [www.tupelo.net](http://www.tupelo.net).**

## BARGAIN LINE

### Bargain Line advertisement

The Bargain Line is free for all military members (including guard and reserve members), DOD civilians, military retirees, family members and contract employees.

Bargain Line advertisements must be turned in to the Silver Wings office in the 14th Flying Training Wing headquarters building by noon Monday to be included in the following week's issue. Late ads will be held over for the next issue.

Reruns must be phoned in to the Silver Wings office, 434-7068, by noon Monday for inclusion in the next week's issue. Please do not re-submit ads for rerun on this form. Advertisements should contain a home phone number, home address or both. Duty phone numbers will not appear in the ads.

Advertisements for private businesses or services providing a continuous source of income, such as baby-sitting or rental property, may not appear in the Bargain Line. They may, however, be purchased through the Silver Wings publisher, 328-2424. Please fill out this form completely. The Silver Wings staff reserves the right to edit ads as necessary.

**Type of advertisement (circle one)**    Home    Transportation    Miscellaneous    Yard sales    Pets

Print advertisement \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Home Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_ Duty Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_  
(in case we need more information)

#### Please let us know what you think of the Silver Wings:

Are you happy with the Silver Wings?    Yes ☐    No ☐

What would you like to see more of in the newspaper?    News ☐    Sports ☐    Photos ☐    Other \_\_\_\_\_

If you would like to give any other suggestions, please e-mail us at [silverwings@columbus.af.mil](mailto:silverwings@columbus.af.mil).

## Nature Trails

Many people are unaware of the opportunity to walk, run, bike or horseback ride along Columbus AFB's Timberlane Nature Trail. Along the trail, various wetlands, trees and countless wildlife can be found. To reach the recreational area, follow Independence Ave. to the runway area. Signs found alongside the dirt road toward SAC Lake offer direction to the beginning of the trails. For more information, call Ext. 7958.



# Syracuse man trains for 50 years for Kilimanjaro

**SYRACUSE** — When he was 12 years old, Doug Hammond watched “The Snows of Kilimanjaro,” which scared him half to death, but also instilled a desire to climb the mountain.

After 50 years, that day has finally arrived. The 63-year-old Syracuse resident is scheduled to leave Feb. 15 to climb Mount Kilimanjaro and will return to Utah on March 4.

“I love nature when it is at its peak of beauty and wonder,” Mr. Hammond said. “Kilimanjaro is literally the roof of Africa. It is the tallest on the continent, the ninth-highest in the world and the tallest stand-alone mountain in the world.”

Mr. Hammond knows climbing the mountain won't be easy, but he has been training for this day most of his life. He said getting ready takes fitness, exercise, planning, determination and preparing one step at a time.

Good mosquito repellent and excellent cold-weather gear is also essential, he said.

“You hike up through five ecosystems, from the warm and hot plains of the Serengeti, which is 112 degrees in

February, to the 19,340-foot altitude, where there are glaciers and subzero temperatures,” Mr. Hammond said.

He has been hiking all of his life in some form or fashion. He has climbed Long's Peak in Colorado, which is more than 14,000 feet high. However, he said reaching the top of Mount Kilimanjaro would accomplish his lifelong dream.

Reaching the top will be a challenge, however, because of lack of oxygen, he said. He will travel to the mountain alone, but will meet up with a tour group for the actual climb.

“It will take us approximately six days to hike the 45 miles,” he said. “Taking it slow and easy helps the climbers adjust so they do not get altitude sickness. After the climb, we will go camping in the Serengeti for a photo safari.”

Born and raised in Denver, Mr. Hammond has two master's degrees — one in education from the University of Southern California, the other in hospital administration from Weber State University.

He worked as a hospital administrator

and is a retired Air Force lieutenant colonel. Currently, he is an adjunct professor at the Park University Extension at Hill Air Force Base, where he teaches business and human resources.

Hammond has been married to his college sweetheart for more than 40 years. They have six children and 17 grandchildren.

“My wife, Danette, is my biggest support, although she would not admit to it, especially since the recent article in the newspaper about the three Americans that were killed on Mount Kilimanjaro,” he said.

While in Africa, Hammond plans to deliver much-needed supplies to area villagers.

“I will be taking everything from schoolbooks to children's clothing,” he said. “And even ballpoint pens, which are a hot commodity and apparently a rarity. I have been working with Mothers Without Borders, who are assisting me on what to take and where to deliver it.”

Mr. Hammond's son Todd said he is proud of his father and excited that he finally gets to fulfill his dream.

“He's always been a very determined person,” he said. “He's always wanted to climb Mount Kilimanjaro, and I think it's great that he's finally getting to do it. He's been collecting all of the little toys in the Happy Meals at McDonald's to take with him for the children there. He has this huge box full of them.

“He's very charitable. He's always contributed wherever he can, and he's always wanted to be involved in things.”

Hammond said he is excited about the climb and is doing everything he can to prepare himself.

“Senior citizens can do amazing things by setting goals and striving to achieve them even if they have physical limitations,” he said. “I have had two knee operations and now function without a meniscus,” the fibrous cartilage within the joint.

“I have overcome that obstacle through physical training and proper exercise,” he said. “I even had one doctor who said I would never run again.”  
*(Editor's note: Mr. Hammond was a Columbus AFB hospital administrator in late 1970's and early 1980's.)*

## Sports Shorts

### Sweetheart fun run

BLAZE TEAM families are invited to a sweetheart fun run at 7 a.m. Feb. 17 at the fitness center. Participants may bring their dog along for the run.

### Sweetheart no-tap bowling tournament

This even will be held a 7 p.m. Feb. 17 at the bowling center. Cost is \$20 per couple and includes bowling, prize fund and door prizes.

### Sweetheart golf tournament

A sweetheart nine-hole scramble golf tournament is scheduled to begin at 2:30 p.m. Feb. 25 with a shotgun start. Cost is \$50 per team and includes greens fees, prize fund, golf cart and a grilled chicken dinner. Participants must register by Feb. 23 at the pro shop. For more information, call Ext. 7932.

### Beat the staff bowling challenge

Every week a Bowling Center staff member will bowl one game. The total score of their game will become a target score for anyone who bowls that day. Anyone who beats the staff member's score will win a free game of bowling to be played at a later date. For more information, call Ext. 2426.

## Use of Force



Tech. Sgt. Larry Simmons

**Andre Penn connects with a left hook while Gary Griffin connects with a body shot during the first round of a match. Airman Penn is from Ellsworth Air Force Base, S.D. and Airman Griffin is from Stuart Air National Guard Base, N.Y. Both will represent the Air Force at the Armed Forces Boxing Tournament at Fort Huachuca, Ariz., Wednesday to Feb. 11.**